

THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 2002305190
PUBLICATION DATE : 18-10-02

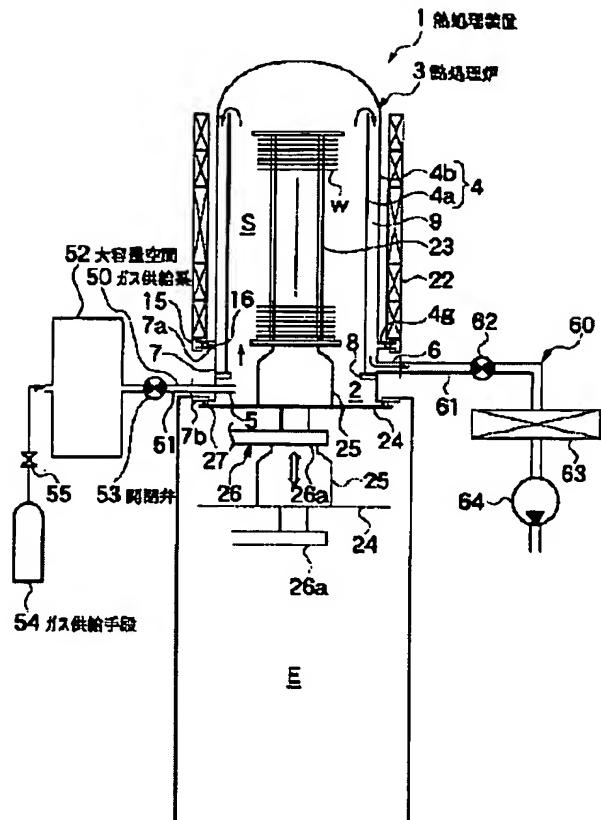
APPLICATION DATE : 09-04-01
APPLICATION NUMBER : 2001109406

APPLICANT : TOKYO ELECTRON LTD;

INVENTOR : TAMURA AKITAKE;

INT.CL. : H01L 21/31 C23C 16/44 F27B 5/04
F27B 5/16 F27B 5/18 F27D 7/02
F27D 7/06 H01L 21/02

**TITLE : HEAT TREATING APPARATUS AND
METHOD FOR CLEANING THE SAME**



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve productivity by enabling particles adhered in a heat treating furnace to be sufficiently removed and to enable heat treatment of proper quality, containing little particles to be executed.

SOLUTION: A heat treatment apparatus comprises a heat treatment furnace 3 for housing the material (w) to be treated to execute a predetermined heat treatment, a voltage volume space 52 provided in a gas supply system 50 for supplying gas into the furnace 3, an opening/closing valve 53 provided between the space 52 and the furnace 3, and a gas supply means 54 for supplying a cleaning gas in the furnace at a pressure higher than that in the furnace 3 into the space 52, to generate a pressure difference between the space 52 and the furnace 3. Thus, the valve 53 is opened to generate abrupt pressure change in the furnace for removing the particles adhered in the furnace 3.

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